

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Presented below are specification changes showing the changes made.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 15, with the following amended paragraph:

Figure 1 is a diagram illustrating a preferred embodiment of the fiducial apparatus 30 in accordance with the invention and a method for inserting the fiducial into a target region. In this embodiment, the fiducial apparatus 30 may be inserted into a patient using a specific insertion needle 32 (also known as a needle with stylet or an “introducer” that “extrudes” the fiducial). In particular, the target region within the patient is identified, the needle attached to a syringe is inserted into the target region and the fiducial apparatus 30 is expelled from the tip of the needle as is well known. The invention is not limited to the particular insertion method shown since the fiducial apparatus 30 may be inserted into the patient or any object by any other well known technique, such as by surgical implantation. In this embodiment, the fiducial apparatus may have a round cross-section (as shown in Figures 3a and 3b) since it must pass through the needle of the syringe. However, the invention is not limited to any particular size or shape of the fiducial apparatus as long as the fiducial apparatus is sufficiently large to be viewed on an x-ray or any other similar imaging apparatus. In accordance with the invention, the fiducial apparatus may be made of any material which blocks the imaging energy so that the fiducial apparatus appears on an image generated by any typical imaging systems, such as x-rays. In a preferred embodiment, the fiducial apparatus may be made of a radio opaque material, such as gold. In other embodiments, the fiducial may be made of a material so that it is viewable in ~~[[a]]~~ an ultrasound image so that ~~[[is]]~~ it may be used as ~~[[a]]~~ an ultrasound fiducial. Now, more details of this embodiment of the fiducial apparatus in accordance with the invention will be described.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 3, with the following amended paragraph:

Figure 4 is a diagram illustrating a second embodiment of the fiducial apparatus 30 in accordance with the invention and a method for inserting the fiducial into a target region. In this embodiment, the fiducial apparatus 30 may be inserted into a patient using a needle 32. In particular, the target region within the patient is identified, the needle of the syringe is inserted into the target region and the fiducial apparatus 30 is expelled from the tip of the needle as is well known. The invention is not limited to the particular insertion method shown since the fiducial apparatus 30 may be inserted into the patient or any object by any other well known technique, such as by surgical implantation. In this embodiment, the fiducial apparatus may have a round cross-section (as shown in Figure 5c) since it must pass through the needle of the syringe. However, the invention is not limited to any particular size or shape of the fiducial apparatus as long as the fiducial apparatus is sufficiently large to be viewed on an x-ray or any other similar imaging apparatus. In accordance with the invention, the fiducial apparatus may be made of any material which blocks the imaging energy so that the fiducial apparatus appears on an image generated by any typical imaging systems, such as x-rays. In a preferred embodiment, the fiducial apparatus may be made of a radio opaque material, such as gold. In other embodiments, the fiducial may be made of a material so that it is viewable in ~~an~~ an ultrasound image so that ~~it~~ it may be used as ~~an~~ an ultrasound fiducial. Now, more details of this embodiment of the fiducial apparatus in accordance with the invention will be described.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 17, with the following amended paragraph:

Figure 6 is a diagram illustrating a ~~second~~ third embodiment of the fiducial apparatus 30 in accordance with the invention and a method for inserting the fiducial into a target region. In this embodiment, the fiducial apparatus 30 may be inserted into a

patient using a needle and syringe 32. In particular, the target region within the patient is identified, the needle of the syringe is inserted into the target region and the fiducial apparatus 30 is expelled from the tip of the needle as is well known. The invention is not limited to the particular insertion method shown since the fiducial apparatus 30 may be inserted into the patient or any object by any other well known technique, such as by surgical implantation. In this embodiment, the fiducial apparatus may have a round cross-section (as shown in Figures 7b and 7c) since it must pass through the needle of the syringe. However, the invention is not limited to any particular size or shape of the fiducial apparatus as long as the fiducial apparatus is sufficiently large to be viewed on an x-ray or any other similar imaging apparatus. In accordance with the invention, the fiducial apparatus may be made of any material which blocks the imaging energy so that the fiducial apparatus appears on an image generated by any typical imaging systems, such as x-rays. In a preferred embodiment, the fiducial apparatus may be made of a radio opaque material. In other embodiments, the fiducial may be made of a material so that it is viewable in ~~[[a]]~~ an ultrasound image so that ~~[[is]]~~ it may be used as ~~[[a]]~~ an ultrasound fiducial. Now, more details of this embodiment of the fiducial apparatus in accordance with the invention will be described.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 16, with the following amended paragraph:

Figure 8 illustrates another embodiment of the fiducial apparatus 30 in accordance with the invention and a method for inserting the fiducial into a target region. In this embodiment, the fiducial apparatus 30 may be inserted into a patient using a needle 32. In particular, the target region within the patient is identified, the needle of the syringe is inserted into the target region and the fiducial apparatus 30 is expelled from the tip of the needle as is well known. The invention is not limited to the particular insertion method shown since the fiducial apparatus 30 may be inserted into the patient or any object by any other well known technique, such as by surgical implantation. In this embodiment, the fiducial apparatus may have a round cross-section since it must pass through the

needle of the syringe. However, the invention is not limited to any particular size or shape of the fiducial apparatus as long as the fiducial apparatus is sufficiently large to be viewed on an x-ray or any other similar imaging apparatus. In accordance with the invention, the fiducial apparatus may be made of any material which blocks the imaging energy so that the fiducial apparatus appears on an image generated by any typical imaging systems, such as x-rays. In a preferred embodiment, the fiducial apparatus may be made of a radio opaque material. In other embodiments, the fiducial may be made of a material so that it is viewable in ~~[[a]]~~ an ultrasound image so that ~~[[is]]~~ it may be used as ~~[[a]]~~ an ultrasound fiducial. Now, more details of this embodiment of the fiducial apparatus in accordance with the invention will be described.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 5, with the following amended paragraph:

Figures 9A and 9B illustrate the fiducial of Figure 8 in an unanchored state and in an anchored state, respectively. In this embodiment, the fiducial apparatus may include an elastic body portion 58 that may be stretched by the insertion of a fluid or other material into the body portion 58. As shown in Figure 9A, when the fiducial apparatus is in the unanchored state, the body portion 58 is empty. To put the fiducial apparatus into the anchored state, a fluid or other material 60 is inserted into the body portion 58 that expands as shown to anchor the fiducial into the target region. As with the other embodiments, the fluid may be ~~radio-a radio~~ radio opaque material or ~~[[a]]~~ an ultrasound opaque material.